

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-6, 11-16 and 21-26 were rejected. The Examiner objected to claims 7-10, 17-20 and 27-30 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this paper, Applicant hereby amends claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 11, 17, 18, 19, 21, 27, 28, 29 and 30 and cancels claims 8 and 20 to place the application in condition for allowance. The Applicant stresses that the amendments incorporate allowable subject matter into each of the independent claims 1, 11 and 21. These amendments do not add any new matter. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-7, 9-19, and 21-30 will be pending in the present patent application and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6, 11-16 and 21-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6, 141, 399 (hereinafter "Tsujii") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5, 881, 181 (hereinafter "Ito"). As discussed above, the Applicant hereby amends the independent claims 1, 11 and 21 to incorporate allowable subject matter from allowable dependent claims 8, 20 and 27.

First, the present amendment incorporates allowable dependent claim 8 into independent claim 1. For at least this reason, the foregoing rejection is moot and claims 1-7 and 9-10 are now in condition for allowance.

Second, the present amendment incorporates allowable dependent claim 20 into independent claim 11. For at least this reason, the foregoing rejection is moot and claims 11-19 are now in condition for allowance.

Third, the present amendment incorporates the third paragraph of allowable dependent claim 27 into independent claim 21. After careful review of the Tsujii and Ito

references and the allowable subject matter, the Applicant stresses that the presently amended claim 21 is allowable over the Tsujii and Ito references. The Tsujii and the Ito references, taken alone or in hypothetical combination with one another, fail to teach or suggest "generating at least one of said plurality of image components by subtracting one of a plurality of expanded images of a given size from one of a plurality of reduced images of said given size," as recited in the amended independent claim 21. In view of this deficiency among others, the Tsujii and the Ito references, alone or in combination, cannot support a *prima facie* case of obviousness of claims 21-26.

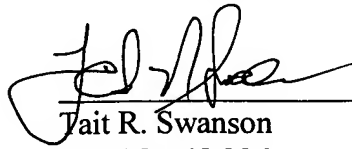
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and allowance of all pending claims.

Conclusion

The Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims should be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes certain amendments are necessary to clarify the present claims or if the Examiner wishes to resolve any other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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